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#4
RICHARD PACE
SCOTT LEE
PITT
CREW
THE SLAYER

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PITT

#4

THE SLAYER

CREATED BY DALE KEOWN

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PRINTED IN CANADA

SHAAAHH!!
EEP!
SHRIT
CRUAK
THWIP
SHLURT
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
ZZZAAGH!

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA
13:42
JUNE 13, 1989
AXIOM INVESTIGATION EXPEDITION NUMBER THREE-FOUR-ZERO, LOG ENTRY SIXTEEN.
GROUND UNIT HAS LANDED AT THE AREA WHERE A SUPPOSED "TYRANNOSAURUS REX" WAS LAST REPORTED SEEN.
IT'S BEEN TERRORIZING THIS PART OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS.
INTERVIEWS WITH THE LOCAL PARK RANGERS AND SOME RESIDENTS FROM THE NEARBY BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVE TURNED UP A PLETHORA OF LEGENDS AND MYTHS ABOUT THIS PART OF THE RANGE.
HUGE LIZARDS, TREE-DEMONS AND GIANTS. MORE RECENTLY, U.F.O. SIGHTINGS AND ABDUCTIONS.
AFTER RESEARCHING THIS PLACE, I'M SURPRISED THE WEEKLY WIERD NEWS HASN'T SET UP A BRANCH OFFICE HERE FOR THEIR NEWSPAPER.
ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN ANOTHER PHOTO OF THE EIGHTY-POUND BABY ON THE COVER OF THIER SUPERMARKET TABLOID!

ASSUMING WE'RE STILL DRAWING ZERO DATA FROM AREA SCANS -
STILL ZIP, RAI-KEE.
-- WE'LL DIVIDE INTO TWO GROUPS, KYTE WITH SHIRO, AND SAURAS WITH ME.
NV WILL COLLATE OUR DATA AND COORDINATE OUR MOVEMENTS FROM THE SEEKERCRAFT.
ARRIGHT! I'M WIT BOBBIE!
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED ABOUT BEING ALONG WITH RAI-KEE, BIG GUY, YOU'LL FRY THE WIRING IN YOUR T.C.A.!
REALLY?!
SHIRO'S JUST KIDDING, SAURAS, YOUR TEMPERATURE CONTROL APPARATUS ISN'T AFFECTED BY YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE.
ACTUALLY, YOU SHOULD INCREASE THE WARMTH SETTING. IT GETS PRETTY CHILLY UP HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
TANKS, KYTE. YER A REAL PAL FER LOOKIN' OUT FER ME LIKE DAT!
NO PROBLEM- IT'S HOW I WAS PROGRAMMED.
RRRRRRRR

WELL, HE LOOKS DEAD TA ME, BOBBIE..
15:19
WHEN I SAID "BE CAREFUL", I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THIS BIG DEAD LIZARD -- I MEANT YOU SHOULD KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WHAT KILLED IT!
OH...

RAI-KEE TO SEEKERCRAFT-- I BELIEVE WE'VE FOUND WHAT *KILLED* THOSE *PEOPLE*, AND THE, UH, *SOURCE* OF THE TYRANNOSAURUS REX STORIES.
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY KILLED-
SAURAS, PUT THAT *DOWN*!
SORRY, BOBBIE.
SHHKKRRSHHKKKzzzzzzzz
DID YOU *GET* ALL THAT, KYTE?
AFFIRMATIVE, N.V. SHIRO AND I ARE ALREADY MOVING TOWARD RAI-KEE'S LOCATION.
WHAT THE *HELL* IS *THAT*?
HOLY SHEEPSPIT!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
OW!!
WHAT D'YOU THINK *THAT* WAS, N.V.?
N.V.?
BOBBIE, DIS GUY LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.

AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE, DEMON!

SEZ YOU!
SAURAS! WAIT!
UUGHH!!
BOBBIE!!

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ZZZAATCHH!!
ARRRGGH!
KYTE, YA STILL WITH US?
LOOKS LIKE THE SWORD CUT HIS CENTRAL POWER CONDUIT. WITH THE TOOLS ON SEEKERCRAFT I COULD PROBABLY FIX HIM.
I REALLY HOPE HE BACKED-UP HIS MEMORY RECENTLY.
DON'T FORGET THAT KNIFE, THERE, SAURUS
SAURUS, LET ME LOOK AT YOUR WOUND...
IT DON'T HURT MUCH, BOBBIE.
IT'S PRETTY DEEP! MY POWERS WON'T BE MUCH HELP UNTIL IT HEALS A BIT ON ITS OWN, SHIRO, MAY I HAVE YOUR FIRST AID KIT?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR TCA. IT'S GONNA GET EXTREMELY COLD AROUND HERE SOON.
WE'RE FIFTY MILES FROM THE NEAREST RANGER STATION, THE SEEKERCRAFT'S MISSING IN ACTION. KYTE'S BATTERY'S DEAD AND SAURAS IS GOING TO BE A SCALY POP-SICLE WHEN IT GETS DARK.
I'D SAY WE'VE BEEN THROUGH WORSE SITUATIONS IF I COULD THINK OF ANY.
DON'T BE SUCH A PESSIMIST, SHIRO,
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.

UHHH-
UHHHH-
ALRIGHT, PAL-- DO WE HAVE TO KICK YOUR BUTT SOME MORE...?
OR WILL YOU TELL US WHAT'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE?!
YOU - YOU DIDN'T KILL ME?
WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CLUE, BRAIN-CASE?
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS OVER...
... THAT THIS BURDEN WOULD FINALLY FALL FROM MY SHOULDERS.

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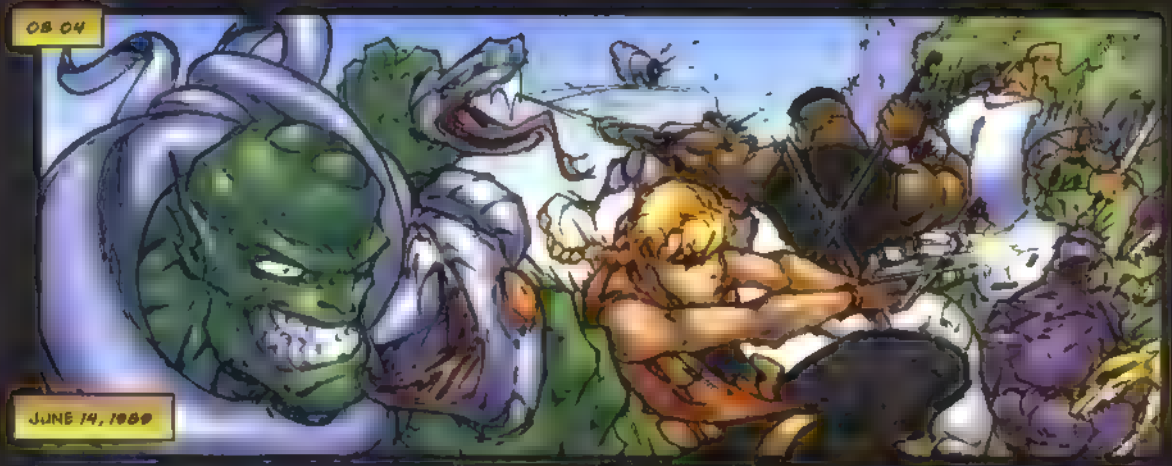
BURDEN?
KILLING-DRAGONS-BURDEN... OR ATTACKING--PEOPLE-ADMIRING-YOUR-HANDIWORK-BURDEN?!
YOU KNOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LONG STORY TO TELL.
I'M TRULY SORRY FOR KILLING YOUR FRIEND... I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE OF THOSE CREATURES FROM THE CAVE.
I HAVE BEEN ALONE FOR SO LONG-- SLAYING THESE DEMONS-- TOO MANY, FOR FAR TOO LONG.
IF WE CAN TRUST YOU TO NOT TRY AND KILL US AGAIN...
...YOU CAN TELL IT WHILE YOU LEAD US TO SOME SORT OF SHELTER, IT'S GETTING TOO COLD HERE FOR MY FRIEND.
20:22
I HAVE FORGOTTEN MUCH OF WHO I WAS BEFORE I BECAME THE SLAYER.
MY WIFE AND I, A FEW OTHER FAMILIES, FROM SCOTLAND...
... WE'D SETTLED HERE INSTEAD OF CROSSING OVER THE MOUNTAINS TO THE WESTERN LANDS, THIS VALLEY WAS WELL-SHELTERED FROM THE WORST OF THE ELEMENTS, THE SOIL WAS RICH AND GAME WAS PLENTIFUL..
WE WEREN'T HERE LONG BEFORE WE BEGAN TO NOTICE THE WIERDNESS OF THE PLACE... SMALL THINGS- STRANGE NOISES, STRANGER BEASTS PROWLING THE NIGHT.
WHEN I MET THE SLAYER IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE TO LEAVE ...

I'D NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF HIM BEFORE.
SO HUGE AND POWERFUL, YET I COULD SENSE HIS DEATH WAS NEAR.
HE TRIED TO SPEAK TO ME, BUT I WAS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS LANGUAGE.
I GREW AFRAID, WHATEVER WOUNDED THIS MAN SO GRIEVOUSLY WAS STILL OUT THERE.ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS MY WIFE, ALONE IN OUR CABIN, AS THE NIGHT APPROACHED.
I TOOK THE DYING MAN'S SWORD, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WOULD ULTIMATELY DO TO ME, AND RAN THROUGH THE DARKENING WOODS TO MY HOME.
WHAT WAS LEFT OF MY WIFE LAY ON THE FLOOR - PART OF ME DIED UPON THE SEEING OF IT.
I FELT THE POWER AND AGE OF THE SWORD IN MY HAND TAKING CONTROL OF MY MIND AND BODY.
I BECAME AS COLD AND SHARP AND DEADLY AS THE SWORD...
...AND VENGEANCE WAS MINE!

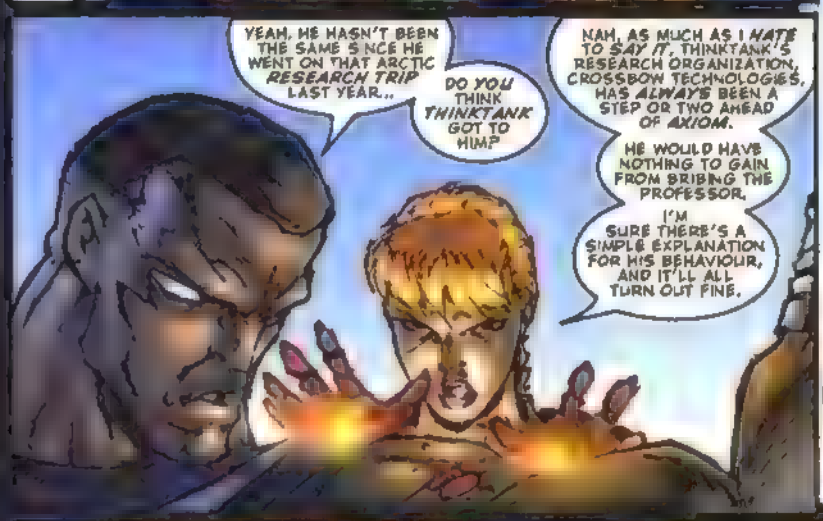
THE NIGHT WAS LONG AND FULL OF BLOODSHED. THERE WERE MANY, MANY DEMONS AND I SLEW THEM ALL BEFORE THE DAWN.
ALL THE OTHER SETTLERS IN THE VALLEY WERE ALREADY SLAIN OR HAD FLED FROM THE HORROR, NEVER TO RETURN.
I BURIED THE BODIES OF MY WIFE AND ALL THE SETTLERS I COULD FIND AND SAID WHAT PRAYERS I COULD REMEMBER OVER THEIR GRAVES.
BEFORE BURYING HIM, I TOOK THE WEAPONS AND ARMOUR FROM THE BODY OF THE SLAYER.
HIS BODY WAS SURPRISINGLY LIGHT, AS IF FIGHTING THESE MONSTERS SO LONG HAD USED HIM ALL UP.
I SOON FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE DEMONS, A NEARBY CAVE.
EVERY EVENING, THE MONSTERS WOULD COME FORTH.
I'D KILL AS MANY OF THEM AS I COULD BEFORE THEY'D ESCAPE INTO THE WORLD.
THIS HAS BEEN MY LIFE FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS, PERHAPS TWO.
I STOPPED COUNTING THE DAYS A LONG TIME AGO.

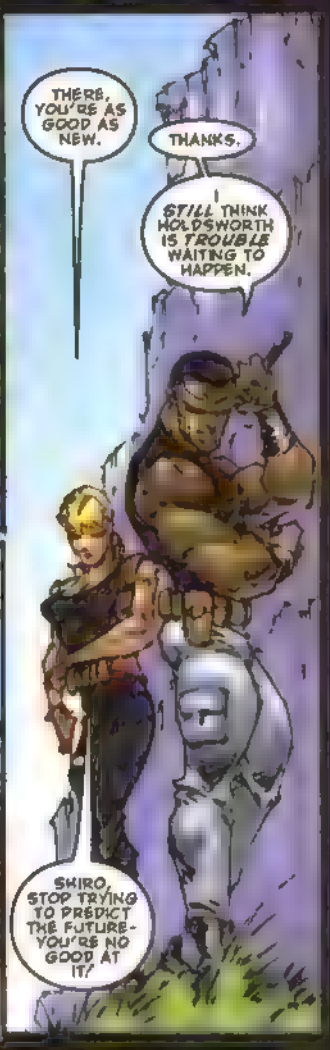
YOU SAID THE CAVE WAS THE SOURCE OF THE DEMONS, NOT THEIR LAIR. HAVE YOU EVER GONE INSIDE THE CAVE?
NO...
EVEN WITH THE WEAPONS AND STRENGTH THAT I NOW POSSESS, THE CREATURES WITHIN WOULD QUICKLY OVERWHELM ME.
I HAVE A SENSE OF HOW THINGS WERE WITH THE PREVIOUS SLAYER. IT IS LIKE HIS SWORD WHISPERS TO MY MEMORY WHEN I WIELD IT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA [illegible] THE OTHER GUY WAS DOING THIS BEFORE YOU?
THE SWORD REMEMBERS DIFFERENT STARS IN THE SKY-
THE END OF A CIVILIZATION OLD, WHEN THE EARTH WAS STILL VERY YOUNG--
AN AGE OF GIANT LIZARDS, A LONG WINTER AND THE RISE OF MANKIND.
I BELIEVE THE SLAYER AND THE SWORD WERE BROTHERS, BORN BEFORE THE RULES OF CREATION WERE WRITTEN.
THE BROTHER MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD WAS WORN DOWN BY TIME AND PAIN, WHILE THE BROTHER MADE OF METAL REMAINS UNCHANGED.
THE SWORD REMADE ME IN ITS BROTHER'S FORM, TO TAKE HIS PLACE.
PERHAPS, IF THE DEMONS DON'T EVENTUALLY KILL ME, I'LL LIVE TO SEE A NIGHT SKY FULL OF NEW STARS.
THAT WINGED LIZARD YOU KILLED-- HOW LONG WAS IT OUT OF THE CAVE?
-- IT'S BEEN REPORTED ROAMING AND KILLING FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS.
THERE WERE TWO OF THEM, AND THEY'VE BEEN FLYING AROUND HERE FOR WELL OVER A MONTH...
I WANT YOU TO SHOW US THE CAVE TOMORROW.
WE'LL SEE IF THE FOUR OF US CAN DO SOMETHING TO SHUT IT DOWN PERMANENTLY!
HAVE YOU KILLED THE OTHER DRAGON YET?
NO. IT FLEW AWAY WHEN I SLEW IT'S MATE.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GEEKERCRAFT!

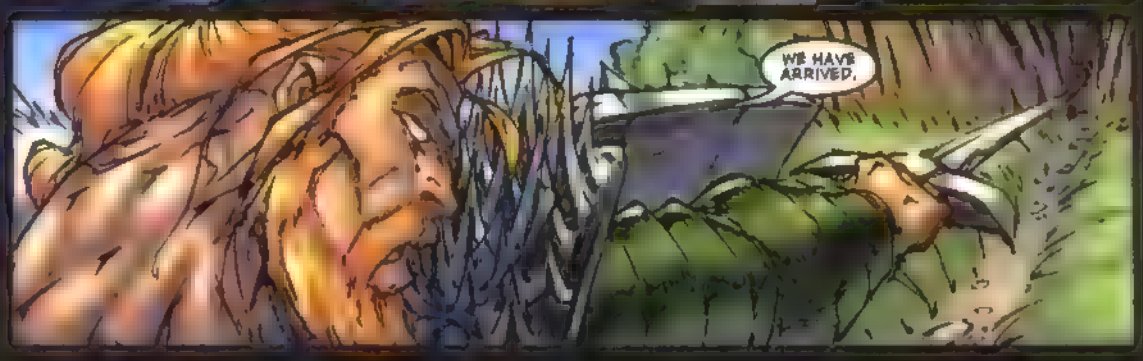


JUNE 14, 1989

HEY, YOU THINK PROFESSOR HOLDSWORTH WILL AUTHORISE OVERTIME PAY FOR THIS MISSION?
HONESTLY, SHIRO, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE PROFESSOR WILL DO ANYMORE.
HE'S BEEN KEEPING ALL OF US AT ARMS LENGTH- EVEN NV, AND SHE'S HIS ONLY DAUGHTER.


YEAH, HE HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE HE WENT ON THAT ARCTIC RESEARCH TRIP LAST YEAR..
DO YOU THINK THINKTANK GOT TO HIM?
NAH, AS MUCH AS I HATE TO SAY IT, THINKTANK'S RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, CROSSBOW TECHNOLOGIES, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STEP OR TWO AHEAD OF AXIOM.
HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM BRIBING THE PROFESSOR.
I'M SURE THERE'S A SIMPLE EXPLANATION FOR HIS BEHAVIOUR, AND IT'LL ALL TURN OUT FINE.


THERE, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS NEW.
THANKS.
I STILL THINK HOLDSWORTH IS TROUBLE WAITING TO HAPPEN.
SHIRO, STOP TRYING TO PREDICT THE FUTURE- YOU'RE NO GOOD AT IT!


WE HAVE ARRIVED.

WELL, SO FAR, SO GOOD.
IT WILL GET BAD... SOON.
YA WANNA USE MY FLASH-LIGHT, MISTER SLAYER?
COOL!
NO, BUT, THANK YOU. I CAN SEE IN THE DARK.
THERE! THEY COME...
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
AIEE!

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SO... WHERE'S THE SLAYER?
DURING THE FIGHTING, HE WAS FORCING HIS WAY INTO THAT TUNNEL.
YOU THINK HIS SWORD WAS TELLING HIM SOMETHING?
I DIN'T KNOW HIS SWORD COULD TALK!
YOU SLEPT THROUGH THAT PART, SAURAS.
I DON'T HEAR ANY FIGHTING, HE COULD BE DEAD, OR...
OR WHAT, BOBBIE?
LET'S FIND OUT.

THE MAN'S RUNG UP ONE HELL OF A BODY COUNT- BUT I WONDER WHY HE DIDN'T TRY THIS BEFORE...
HE WAS ALONE BEFORE.
WITHOUT US TO SPLIT UP THE MONSTERS' ATTACKS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD IN SECONDS.
OH, GREAT!
FREAKY BLUE LIGHT THIS FAR UNDERGROUND CANNOT BE A GOOD SIGN.
WHAT DID I TELL YA?!
DID ANYONE SEE SLAYER?
DERE HE IS!

I THINK HE'S STILL BREATHING.
RAI-KEE, CAN YOU HEAL HIM?
DOES DAT THING HAVE AN OFF-SWITCH?
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO DAT THING-- I THINK DA MONSTERS COME OUTTA DERE.
RAI-KEE, I SURE COULD USE SOME HELP HERE!
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE .. ALIVE ...
RAI-KEE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ALIVE... INSIDE...
... INSIDE... CONTROLLING IT ...
BOBBIE! GET AWAY FROM IT!
NO- DON'T-

DUCK!!
ENçXΣΦθY HPNθΩXΣΔ Γ∞⊥Π AHΣ ΛZΞçθ<>!!
θçHYΣΘΔΦ ΓΩΨYIOΔAK!!

I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED.
I COULD SEE A BIO-AURA WITHIN THE SPHERE AND I STARTED TO-- I DON'T KNOW-- GO INTO A TRANCE. THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHO WAS HE? WHY WAS HE DOING THIS?
11:51.
I THINK HE WAS THE ONE WHO FORGED THIS SWORD AND HE MAY HAVE BEEN KIN TO THE SLAYER WHO GAVE IT TO ME.
I DO NOT KNOW WHY HE DID THIS, BUT I DOUBT THAT IT IS OVER.
WHEN I HAVE RECOVERED, I WILL SEEK HIM OUT TO FIND ANSWERS, OR, AT LEAST, AN ENDING.
I CAN-- THE SWORD CAN SENSE HIM OUT IN THE WORLD.
I CAN ONLY EXPRESS WITH WORDS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR HELP, AND MY SORROW OVER KILLING YOUR FRIEND- I --
DON'T WORRY, WE CAN REPAIR OUR FRIEND.
OH- THERE YOU ARE!
DEAD? KYTE'S NOT DEAD.
WE GET ATTACKED BY A FREAKIN' DRAGON, THE SEEKERCRAFT IS NEARLY TOTALLED...
... A WHOLE BUNCH OF FREAKY MONKEYS JUMP US AFTER WE CRASH, AND YOU GUYS ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!
WELL?!
THE END.